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Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: priority theme: social integration

Statement by Leonard Cheshire Disability, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/CN.5/2010/1.

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Statement

1. 2010 is a crucial year for all who work to combat poverty, improve living standards and build social integration. With five years to go and subject to a major review, the Millennium Development Goals are rightly the focus of many at this time. However, the Goals are failing many of the people they were designed to help because they are not included in the goals, targets and indicators.

2. Approximately one person in ten has a disability. In the wealthy developed world and the developing world alike, they make up the poorest segment of the population and, globally, they are more likely to be among the poorest of the world's poor. The reasons for this are many and varied, but one of the root causes is the discriminatory barriers that society puts in their way (access to education, health care, employment, human rights and legal redress).

3. By denying people with disabilities the possibility of playing a full and active part in society, society deprives itself of the economic and cultural benefits having 10 per cent of its population fully socially and economically integrated.

4. The United Nations and its Member States have acknowledged that this discrimination must be addressed; the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is an instrument that enables people with disabilities to finally become socially integrated. Other initiatives such as the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons are also welcome.

5. The review of the Millennium Development Goals in 2010 provides an important opportunity to incorporate and mainstream the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into all efforts to deliver on the Goals.

6. Leonard Cheshire Disability welcomes the resolution of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly on realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities.[1]

7. Leonard Cheshire Disability calls for:

1. On the Millennium Development Goals

(a) More awareness within the Millennium Development Goal monitoring and reporting bodies of what the Goals mean for people with disabilities, specifically that the Goals will not be met by 2015 if the needs of people with disabilities are not included. The website www.includeeverybody.org is a good resource;

(b) The inclusion of disaggregated data on disability within Millennium Development Goal reporting mechanisms; for example, when looking at Goal 2, universal primary school education, the number of children with disabilities enrolled in primary education should be taken into account;

(c) The mainstreaming of people with disabilities into poverty-eradication programmes and programmes for achieving the Millennium Development Goal targets at the national level, including national development strategies, poverty reduction plans, country assistance plans and other aid mechanisms;

[1] See A/C.3/64/L.5/Rev.1.

(d) A post-2015 international development system that is genuinely inclusive and actively seeks to address the fact that people with disabilities are disproportionately more likely to live in poverty.

2. On the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

(a) The speedy signing, ratification and national implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by all countries;

(b) The involvement of people with disabilities and civil society in the monitoring of the implementation processes, including shadow reporting;

(c) The mainstreaming of the Convention into all pertinent United Nations initiatives, including the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002.

3. On access to education and health care

All Governments to take steps to provide birth certificates and other necessary registration documents for all children, including those with disabilities, so that they can access education and vital health care and social services. Too many children with disabilities are invisible in their societies and are unable to escape from a life of poverty and dependency because they do not have the documents they need. In certain countries, this is a major barrier to education for all and access to health care for people with disabilities.

About Us

8. Leonard Cheshire Disability[2] is a non-governmental organization with special consultative status at the Economic and Social Council. We have particular expertise in the field of inclusive education, livelihoods, support for everyday living, capacity-building of local partners and campaigning and advocacy. With our partners in the Leonard Cheshire Disability Global Alliance in 53 countries, we offer a package of services that empowers people with disabilities and increases their life opportunities. An evidence base for our policy and programmes is provided by the Leonard Cheshire Disability and Inclusive Development Centre, which is run jointly with University College London (UCL), United Kingdom.

9. The head office of Leonard Cheshire Disability is located at 66 South Lambeth Road, London SW8 1RL, United Kingdom. Website: www.LCDisability.org/international; e-mail: international@lcdisability.org.

10. Leonard Cheshire Disability is a member of the International Disability and Development Consortium and the Global Partnership on Disability and Development.

[2] Founded in 1948 and registered as a charity in England and Wales (218186) and Scotland (SCO05117), with regional offices in East Asia, South Asia, West Africa, East and North Africa, Southern Africa and the Americas.